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CONGRESSMAN ED CASE

2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

ISLANDS OF HAWAII, MAUI, KAHOLAWE, LANAI,
MOLOKA'I, O'AHU (WINDWARD, NORTH SHORE,
CENTRAL, LEEWARD), KAUAI AND NI'HAU,
AND NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

May 3, 2006

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AND TECHNOLOGY

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President:

As the Congress continues our long overdue debate on immigration reform, I would like to request your support of H.R. 901. This measure fills a small but unjust gap in our national immigration policy by providing for the expedited reunification of the families of our naturalized Filipino World War II veterans.

Filipino Americans in our country mark a milestone this year. They are celebrating the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States. As one of the fastest growing immigrant populations in the country (there are 2.4 million nationwide and 1.1 million in California alone), Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to our country.

Apart from strengthening U.S.-Philippines relations, one of the most important issues facing our Filipino American community deals with our commitment to Filipino veterans. Our country has many times over recognized the courage and commitment of the Filipino troops who fought alongside our armed forces in the Philippines during World War II. And in 1990, we provided a waiver from certain naturalization requirements for these veterans, and many thereafter became proud citizens and residents of our country. Most recently, in the 108th Congress, we also provided a long-delayed and long-denied measure of justice by granting them a partial measure of veterans benefits which were unjustly denied to them in 1946, though many of us continue to advocate for full equity.

However, little attention has been given to the reunification of the families of Filipino World War II veterans who became naturalized citizens in and after 1990, as the sons and daughters of these veterans were not allowed to come with them. H.R. 901 addresses this inequity by providing that the sons and daughters of those veterans that became U.S. citizens through the process established in 1990 will have priority in their respective immigration categories. In doing so, H.R. 901 fulfills one of the bedrock principles of our federal immigration policy - family reunification - and warrants special consideration given the unique history between the United States and the Philippines, as well as the contributions of our Filipino War II veterans to our country and to U.S. national security interests.

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This measure is especially timely not only because of the centennial but because our Filipino World War II veterans are passing away or entering the sunset years of their lives. The prompt enactment into law of H.R. 901 will provide great solace to them knowing that their families will be reunited and their children will be given their long-delayed opportunity to live in the United States.

I ask for your support of the inclusion of H.R. 901 in any comprehensive immigration reform measure, and otherwise for its expedited consideration as a stand-alone measure. Enclosed please find a copy of my bill and my floor statement upon introduction.

I look forward to working with you on this important issue. Mahalo for your time and attention.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Case", with a stylized, cursive script.

ED CASE
United States Congressman
Hawaii, Second District

Enclosures